Widening of NH-8

2563. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the approval of the project for widening the National Highway between Vadodara and Surat on NH-8 is still awaited from Government;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the time-bound programme for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) The concession for 2 projects for widening of National Highway No. 8 to six lane between Vadodara to Bharuch and Bharuch to Surat having total length of 148 km has been signed in July, 2006 on Built, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. The project is targeted for completion by July, 2009.

Road accidents on NHs

2564. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing road accidents of National Highways all over India;

(b) if so, the steps Government are contemplating in this regard; and

(c) the details of casualties on said NHs during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) As per the report by the States/UTs, the number of road accidents on National Highways during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 (the latest available data) are as under:—

Year	Road Accidents
2003	127834
2004	130265
2005	129994

(b) The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, this department has taken several steps to improve road safety for the road users which are as under:

(i) It is ensured that road safety is the integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.